SNCO Congressional Fellowship Program

USMC Office of Legislative Affairs, Pentagon

Washington, DC

UNCLAS

Marine Congressional Fellowship Program

From its founding in 1775, the Marine Corps has maintained a close relationship with the United States Congress. An essential aspect of this relationship is the present-day Congressional Fellowship Program.

The program is a Department of Defense program, managed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs and the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs.

The program provides a unique opportunity for military members to work alongside senators, representatives, and congressional committees. Fellows learn about Congress through practical application and lend their experience to Congress

2014 House Fellowships: 8

- Rep Joe Wilson (SC-2); Capt Kaltrider
- Rep Duncan Hunter (CA-50); Capt Morris
- Rep DarrellIssa (CA-49); Capt Jones
- Rep Robert Andrews (NJ-1); GySgt Lloyd
- Rep Susan Davis (CA-53); Capt Koch
- Rep James Moran (VA-8); GS13 Quizon
- Rep John Kline (MN-2); Maj Selmo
- Rep Sanford Bishop (GA-2); MSgt Stevens

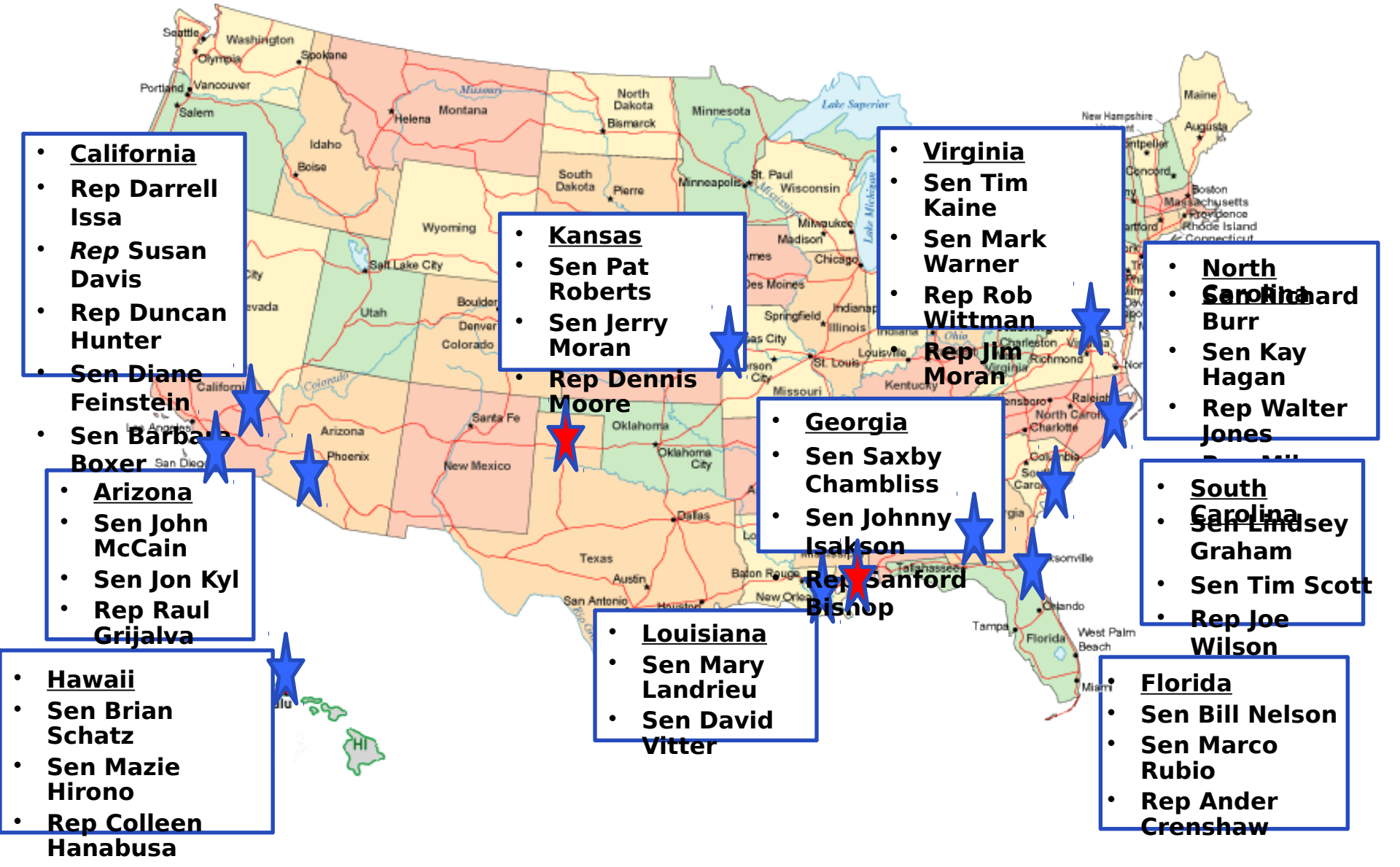
2014 Senate Fellowships: 6

- Sen Kay Hagan (NC); MSgt Espinosa
- Sen John Cornyn (TX); Capt Holt
- Sen Richard Blumenthal (CT); Maj Steinfels
- Sen Diana Feinstein (CA); Capt D'Itri
- Sen Thad Cochran (MS); Capt Pack
- Sen. Bob Corker (TN); Capt Nelson

2014 Wounded Warrior Fellowships: 2

- Senate Veterans Affairs Committee: GySgt Dean
- House Veterans Affairs Committee: MGySgt Stowe

Members With USMC Bases



- **California**
- Rep Darrell Issa
- *Rep* Susan Davis
- Rep Duncan Hunter
- Sen Diane Feinstein
- Sen Barbara Boxer

- **Arizona**
- Sen John McCain
- Sen Jon Kyl
- Rep Raul Grijalva

- **Hawaii**
- Sen Brian Schatz
- Sen Mazie Hirono
- Rep Colleen Hanabusa

- **Kansas**
- Sen Pat Roberts
- Sen Jerry Moran
- Rep Dennis Moore

- **Louisiana**
- Sen Mary Landrieu
- Sen David Vitter

- **Georgia**
- Sen Saxby Chambliss
- Sen Johnny Isakson
- Rep Sanford Bishop

- **Virginia**
- Sen Tim Kaine
- Sen Mark Warner
- Rep Rob Wittman
- Rep Jim Moran

- **North Carolina**
- Sen Richard Burr
- Sen Kay Hagan
- Rep Walter Jones

- **South Carolina**
- Sen Lindsey Graham
- Sen Tim Scott
- Rep Joe Wilson

- **Florida**
- Sen Bill Nelson
- Sen Marco Rubio
- Rep Ander Crenshaw

Congressional Fellowship Program CY09

2009 House Fellow

Master Sergeant William "Spanky" Gibson

- **Utilization Tour: Special Asst to Secretary Garcia (Asst SECNAV M&RA) Wounded Warrior Care and Transition**

2009 Senate Fellow

Gunnery Sergeant Bradley Simmons
Senator Brown (OH)

- **PCSO to 1stBn, 5th Marines (Co 1stSgt)**

Congressional Fellowship Program CY10

2010 House Fellow

Gunnery Sergeant Hector Soto-Rodriguez

Office of US Congressman Victor F.

2010 Senate Fellow

Master Gunnery Sergeant William Mahoney

Congressional Fellowship Program CY11

2011 House Fellow

Gunnery Sergeant Damion Jacobs

Office of US Congressman Darrell Issa

- **Utilization Tour: Special Assistant to**

2011 Senate Fellow

Master Sergeant Julius D. Spain Sr.

Office of United States Senator Johnny

- **Utilization Tour: Senior Enlisted**

Congressional Fellowship Program CY12

2012 House Fellow

MGySgt Michelle King

Rep Joe Wilson(SC)

- **Utilization Tour: Senior Enlisted Advisor, Department of Navy, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (DON SAPRO) Pentagon**

2012 Senate Fellow

GySgt Thomas Boyd

Sen Joseph Lieberman(CT)

- **Utilization Tour: G-2 Chief, Marine Forces Cyber Command, National Security Agency, Fort Meade, MD.**

Congressional Fellowship Program CY13

2013 House Fellow

MSgt Lee Duncan

Rep. Joe Wilson (SC)

- **Utilization Tour: TBD**

2013 House Fellow

GySgt Vincent Bennett

Rep. Palazzo (LA)

- **Utilization Tour: TBD**

Congressional Fellowship Program CY13

2013 Senate Fellow

MSgt Kathrine Denham

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (CT)

- **Utilization Tour: TBD**

Wounded Warrior Congressional Fellowship Program CY13

2013 House Fellow

GySgt Benjamin Fender

House Veterans Affairs Committee

- ❑ **Utilization Tour: TBD**

2013 Senate Fellow

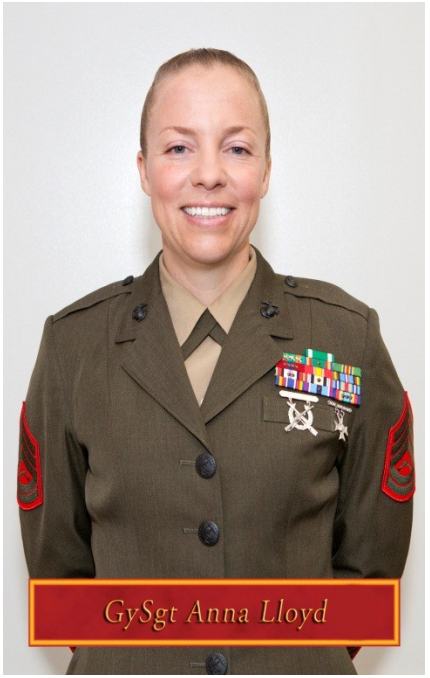
SSgt Benito Garcia

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

- ❑ **Utilization Tour: TBD**

Congressional Fellowship Program CY14

- MSgt Juan Espinosa, MCESG, Quantico (MOS 7051)
- MSgt Vernita Stevens, MCRDPISC, (MOS 0111)
- GySgt Anna Lloyd, MACG-48, 4th MAW, (MOS 2862)

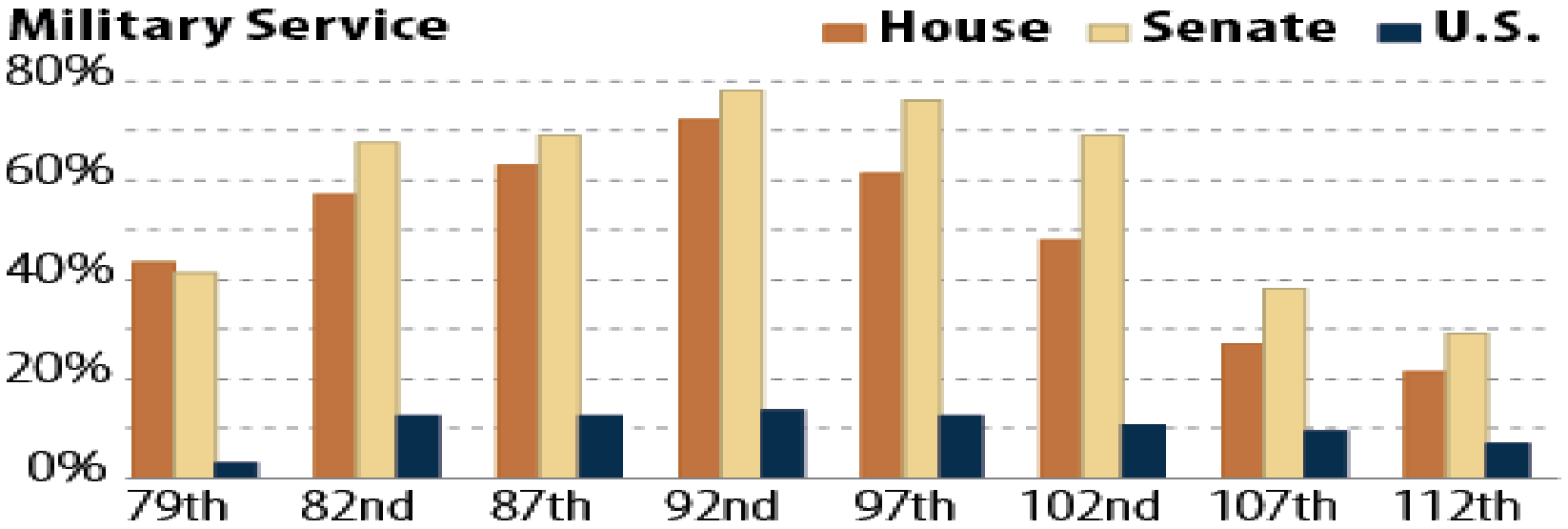


Wounded Warrior Congressional Fellowship Program CY14

- MGySgt Christopher Stowe (MOS: 2336)
- GySgt Jason Dean (MOS: 2862)

Currently, SNCO Wounded Warrior Fellows are assigned to either the United States Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs or the United States House Committee on Veteran's Affairs. Each committee oversee agencies, reviews current legislation, and recommends new bills or amendments concerning U.S. military veterans. Jurisdiction includes retiring and disability pensions, life insurance, education (including the G.I. Bill), vocational training, medical care, and home loan guarantees. The committees oversees the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), veterans' hospitals, and veterans' cemeteries, except cemeteries under the Secretary of the Interior.

Military Service by Representatives, Senators, and U.S. Population

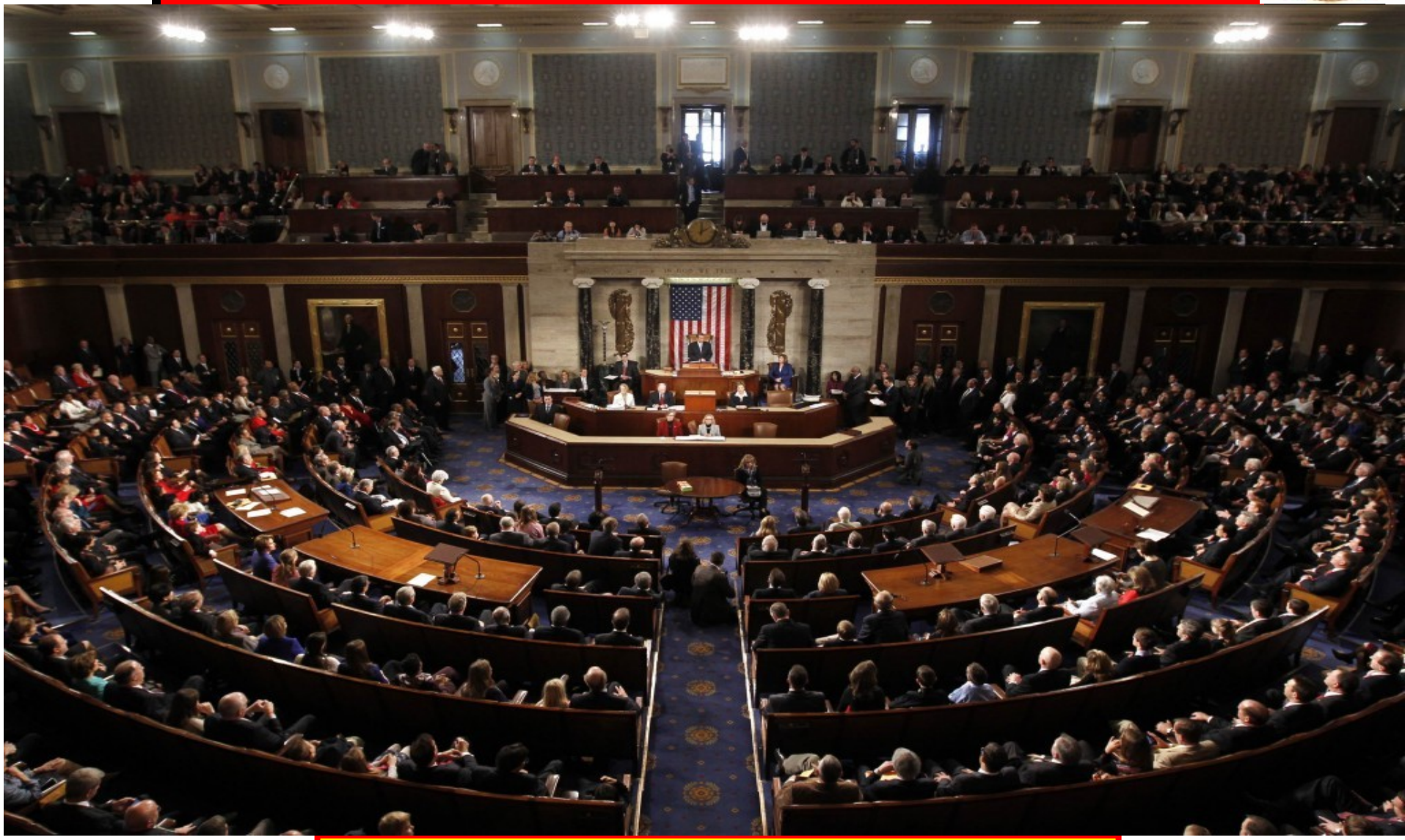


- **Source:** CQ Press U.S. Census Bureau, Susan B. Carter, Scott Sigmund Gartner, Michael R. Haines, et al., *Historical Statistics of the United States*.

- At the beginning of the 113th Congress, there were 108 Members (20% of the total membership) who had served or were serving in the military, 10 fewer than at the beginning of the 112th Congress (118 Members) and 12 fewer than in the 111th Congress (120 members). According to lists compiled by CQ Roll Call, the House currently has 87 veterans (including 2 female Members, as well as 2 Delegates); the Senate has 18.26 These Members served in World War II,27 the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo, as well as during times of peace. Many have served in the Reserves and the National Guard. Eight House Members and one Senator are still serving in the Reserves, and six House Members and one Senator are still serving in the National Guard. Both of the female veterans are combat veterans.
- The number of veterans in the 113th Congress reflects the trend of steady decline in recent decades in the number of Members who have served in the military. For example, 64% of the members of the 97th Congress (1981-1982) were veterans; and in the 92nd Congress (1971-1972), 73% of the Members were veterans.

Operating Environment

Formation



…and they all have a

What do you Do?

- Advise and assist development of legislation
- Assist with hearing preparation and floor debate
- Represent Member at various meetings with constituents and attends hearings
- Assist with coordination of congressional and staff actions
- Assist in press releases and media events
- Research, development, and drafting introduction to bills

Roles & Responsibilities

- Expectations
- Dress appropriately
- Party affiliation is irrelevant
- Network
- Knowledge
- Attend social events

Accomplishments

- Drafted legislation for awareness of Vet benefits dealing with Post 911 GI Bill
- Major contributor in passing the Vision Scholars Act of 2009
- Assisted in legislation to add and improve the hiring of veterans
- Assisted in programs designed for amputees in transition from DOD to VA
- Prepared, and staffed US Senator for committee hearings
- Drafted statements for Congressional Record

Accolades by Elected Members

- “In my view he has validated the concept of assigning highly qualified SNCO’s to congressional offices as fellows”
- “Based on his performance this office will seek SNCO’s if offered”
- “More than a trusted advisor. He’s been a teacher and a friend”
- “This senior SNCO cannot be stopped”
- “I rank the MSgt as #1 of 5 military fellows who have ever worked for me during elected office”
- “His written compositions were of the highest quality. His verbal communications inspired confidence”

Current Challenges on the Hill

- Effects of Sequestration FY14-FY19 and its impacts
- Force Structure Review and the size of the Corps
- Operational relevancy of the MAGTF
- Modernization: ACV, JLTV, F35B, MV-22
- Force Shaping
- Sexual Assault
- WISRR

Everyday Congressional Interest

- **Programs - JSF, MV-22, ACV, Force Structure, Ground Tactical Vehicle Strategy, and MILCON (BEQs)**
- **Sexual Assault , Hazing, Conduct of our military members**
- **Wounded Warriors: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder & Traumatic Brain Injury**
- **Health of the Force – Dwell and Afghanistan Drawdown**
- **Service Roles and Missions (MAGTF and Amphibious missions)**
- **Basing Issues and Depots**

Congressional Inquiries

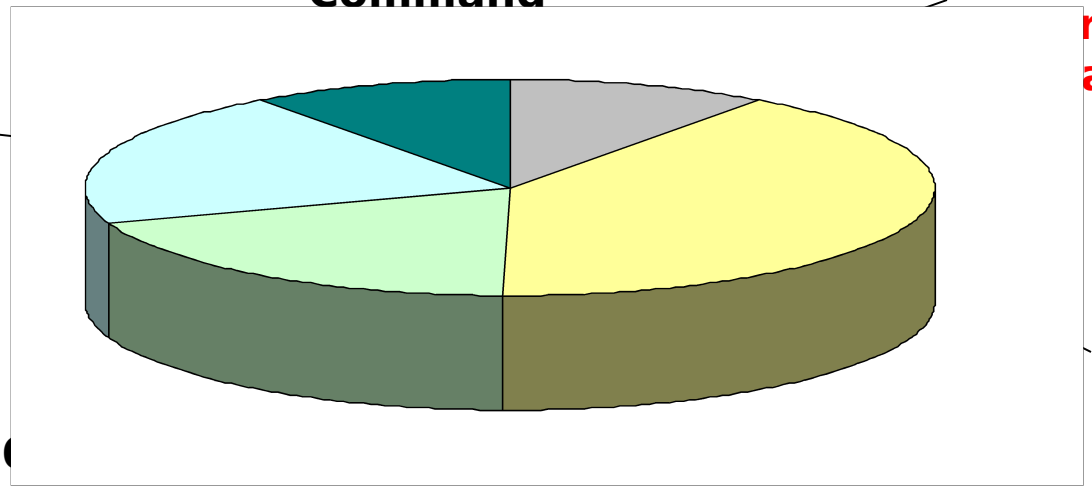
OLAC Received 3634 Total Written Inquiries in 2011

Records/Awards are by far the bulk of the total number of cases.

Next Top Five Issues

- **61 Command**
- **65 OIF or OEF**
- **1(Pay Issue s**
- **264 Medical Issues**

Base Issues: 47 (Base issues include BRAC, rracks, Housing, acilities, Noise Complaints

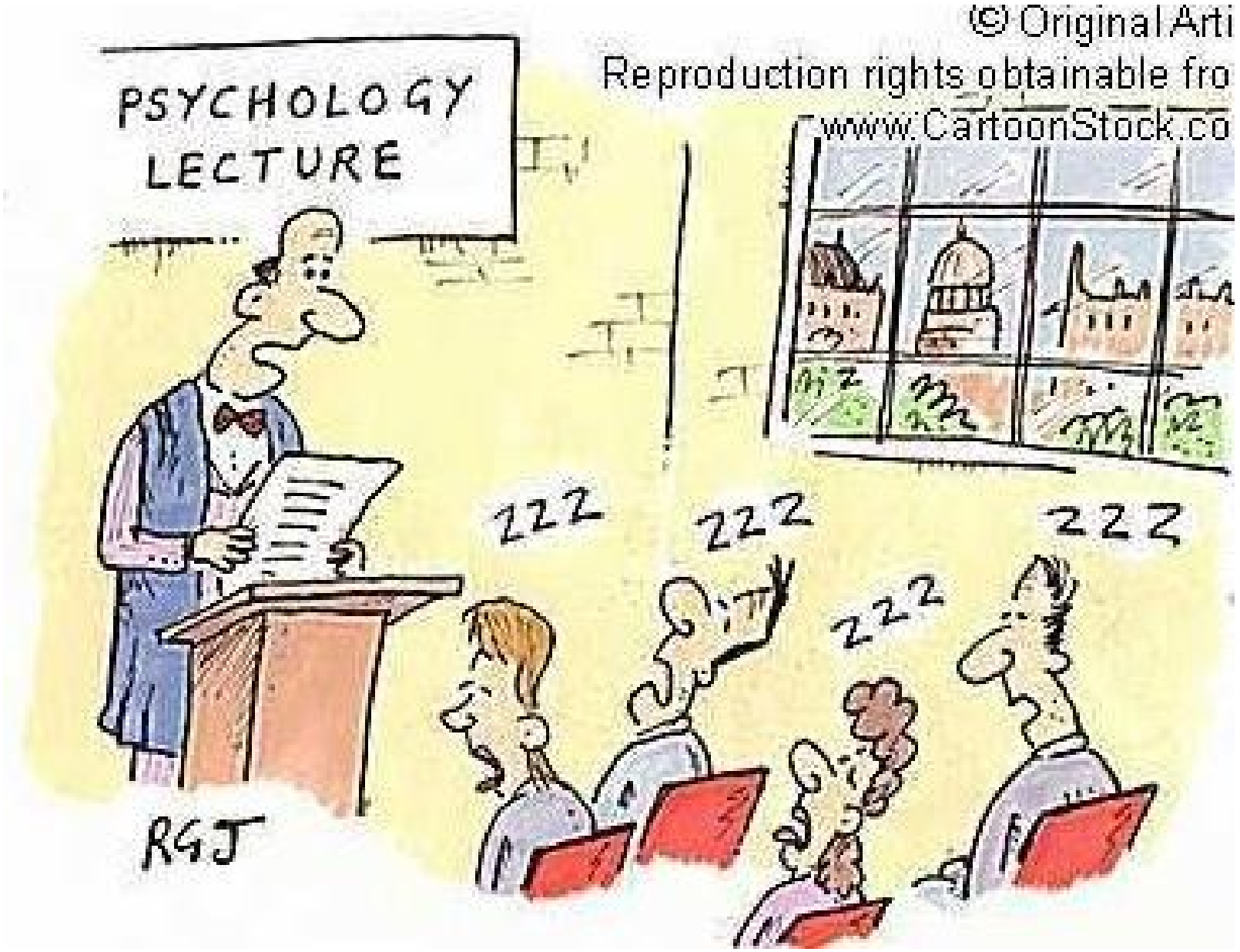


38 Educational Inquiries and 1 DADT

37 Suicide, Health and Welfare

24 Disability Benefits are included in Medical Issues

9 Non-Combat Casualty cases were added to Suicide, Health and Welfare



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Criteria: SNCO Fellowship Program

- Active Duty
- GySgt, MSgt, MGySgt
- Time on Station Requirements prior to reporting
- Agree to remain on Active Duty for 3 years
- Health of the MOS
- **MOS and Operational Force experience**
- **OIF/OEF/IA Deployment**
- **GySgt's must have selected "M" on their fitness reports**

Package with Enclosures

- ❑ AA Form
- ❑ Command Endorsement through first GO
- ❑ Resume with Service History (Civ Edu, Mil Edu, Decorations, and Personal Data)
- ❑ Personal Statement indicating reason for application
- ❑ RS Assessment of Applicant qualifications
- ❑ OMPF Digital Photo taken within 12 months (Deployed Marines may take photo in utilities)
- ❑ Privacy Act Statement
- ❑ College Transcripts (If applicable), Letters of Recommendation

Submission Process

- Submit completed electronic package to MMEA-85 and Manpower Portal
- MMEA will screen for eligibility and provide recommendation
- All packages with MMEA recommendations are forwarded to OLA
- Senior Enlisted Board is convened to provide the most qualified SNCO’s to be interviewed for selection
- OLA Selection Board is convened
- Selections are notified via MARADMIN in March with a report date in early October

Submission Process

- Package Submissions

  1) Electronically via a web-based application system

- https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/cfp
- Applications will be submitted by final endorsing authority
- Applicant can track status via website

Package Submission

Snapshot of the Board Priorities

- Letters of Recommenda
- Military
- Personal RS Stateme
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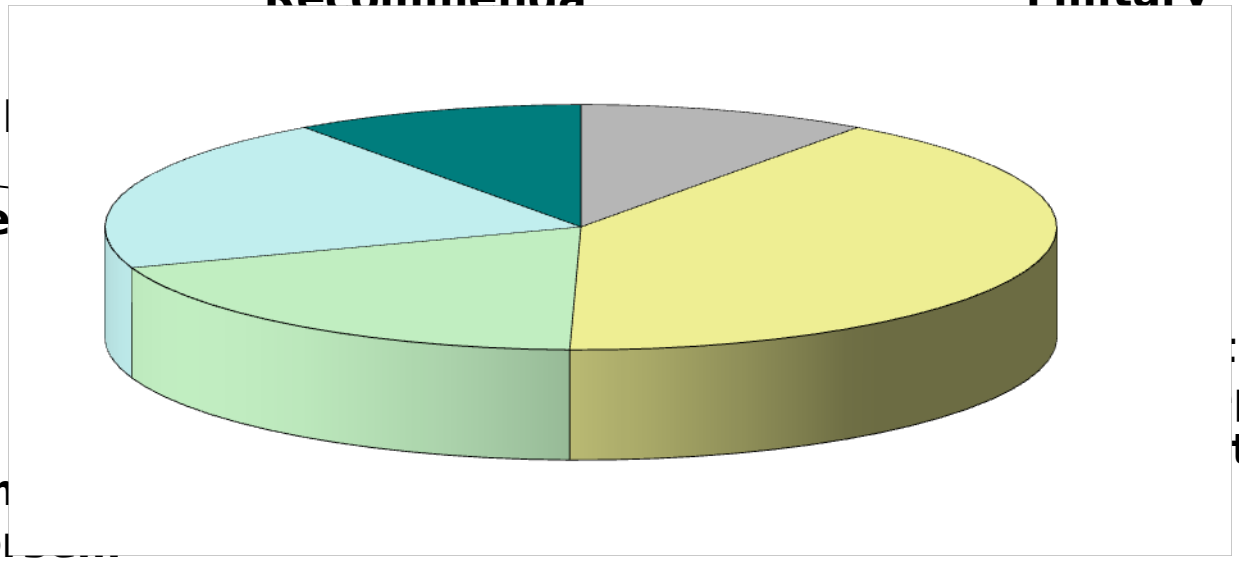
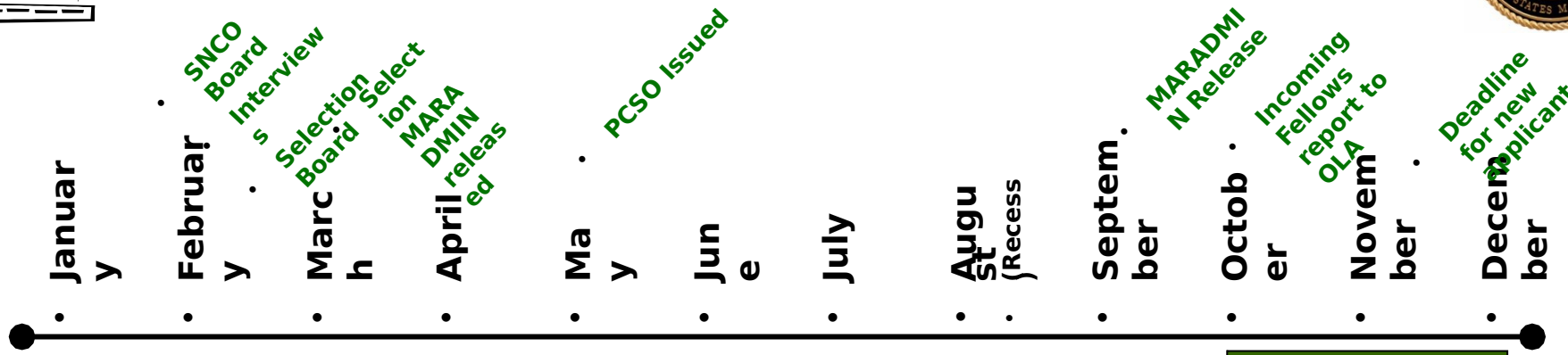
- Comm Endo ents



*Selling an opportunity for an interview

Fellowship Cycle



- Snapping In and Office Interviews
- Fellowship tour with Member of Congres

- 2 Year Utilization Tour

Utilization Tour…

… Legislative Assistant/Special Asst

Wounded Warrior Fellowship

- Combat Wounded
- Purple Heart recipient
- Remain on Active Duty(3yrs)
- Standard criteria applies

SNCO Fellowship Stats

- **CY 2009** -68 Applications
- **CY 2010** -26 Applications
- **CY 2011** -17 Applications
- **CY 2012** -26 Applications
- **CY 2013** -41 Applications
- **CY 2014** -35 Applications
- **CY 2015** TBD

Office of Legislative Affairs Info

CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

- **The Congressional Fellowship Program offers participants the chance to work for a year as a staffer on Capitol Hill. Eligible candidates include Marine Officers (Active and Reserve components), SNCOs, and Civilian Marines. The fellowship includes three components: (1) training and education through the Georgetown Government Affairs Institute before placement, (2) work on the Hill in the personal office of a Senator or Member of Congress for a year, and (3) a two-year utilization tour immediately upon completion of the fellowship. The program exists to provide the Marine Corps with an enhanced understanding of the legislative branch of the federal government. This is vital, as the day-to-day workings of Congress affect every aspect of the Marine Corps--our budget, roles and missions, force structure, programs, military construction projects, and quality of life.**
- **Officers: Please contact Capt John Schippert (john.schippert@usmc.mil) at (703) 614-1686/1687.**
- **SNCOs: Please contact MGySgt Julius D. Spain Sr. (julius.spain@usmc.mil) or (703) 614-1686/1687.**
- **Civilian Marines: Please contact Ms. Patricia Williams at Marine Corps University (patricia.williams1@usmc.mil) at (703) 784-2788.**
- **Helpful Links**
- **MARADMIN 421/12 Commandant's Professional Intermediate-Level Education Board (CPIB)**
  MARADMIN 352/12 Commandant's Career-Level Education Board (CCLEB)
  Officer Sample Application SNCO Sample Application SNCO Fellowship Brief Leatherneck Article The link below is for use of the final endorsing authority in the chain of command to submit electronic packages:
- **SUBMIT E-PACKAGE**
- **Important Dates for Active Reserve Officers and SNCOs 2013 September: CY15 CFP MARADMIN for SNCOs and AR officers released**
  2013 October-December: CY15 CFP & Wounded Warrior application period for SNCOs and AR Officers
  2014 January: Selection Board convenes for SNCOs and AR officers
  2014 March: Selection board results published via MARADMIN

Questions?

OLA is the conduit between the Hill and the Corps… We speak with many voices… but there is always one theme. Congressional Fellows are intregal to the shelf life of the